

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REF

INFORMATION REPORT

CD

COUNTRY

East Germany/Communist China

DATE DISTR.

18 May 1955

SUBJECT

Shortage of East German Imports of Essential
Oils

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(LISTED BELOW)

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1. **A critical supply situation exists in the field of essential oils (Aetherische Oele) in East Germany.** As of 15 March 1955, 120 tons of peppermint oil were required for current production of menthol. This peppermint oil was scheduled to be imported from Communist China, but the latter had stopped shipments of peppermint oil to East Germany because floods had destroyed the most recent harvest. Approximately 1,000,000 rubles had been allocated for this purchase, but it ~~now going~~ **is now going** to be necessary to obtain Western currency in order to import the required amount from Western countries.
2. **Peppermint oil is used in pharmaceuticals, in menthol products, in toothpaste and in the food industry.** The situation is critical because it affects the planned exports for 1955, since menthol is a regularly exported product. The original import plan for essential oils provided for imports in the value of 10,900,000 rubles, of which 5,200,000 rubles were for purchases from East Bloc countries and 5,700,000 rubles were for purchases from Western countries.

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